

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 07139 161534Z

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MADRID 7139

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM MCCLOSKEY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, US
SUBJECT: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS - OCTOBER 15

1. TOGETHER WITH AMBASSADOR STABLER I MET WITH CORTINA SHORTLY AFTER MY ARRIVAL. CORTINA REAFFIRMED HE WAS COMMITTED TO MEETING THE NOVEMBER 15 DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH ME ANYTIME DURING MY STAY HERE. WE AGREED TO MEET AT LEAST BEFORE MY PROPOSED DEPARTURE ON FRIDAY. AS OF NOW HE HAS NO PREFERRED COURSE FOR FINAL ACT OF SIGNATURE, NOR DID I STATE ONE.

2. LATE IN THE AFTERNOON WE MET WITH THE SPANISH WORKING GROUP HEADED BY ROVIRA. I TABLED OUR DRAFTS OF THE SEVEN SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS. AT HIS REQUEST I REVIEWED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DOCUMENTS DEALING WITH THE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL COUNCIL, COMBINED MILITARY GROUP, MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND FACILITIES, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE SPANISH SIDE WAS HEARING DETAILS OF WHAT THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER HAD AGREED TO FOR THE FIRST TIME. ROVIRA AND THE OTHERS WERE DEMONSTRABLY SURPRISED THAT CORTINA HAD AGREED TO OUR RETENTION OF ALL FACILITIES IN SPAIN. ROVIRA COMMENTED THAT CORTINA HAD NOT REPORTED THIS TO THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 MADRID 07139 161534Z

HE ASKED ON THIS POINT WHETHER CORTINA HAD MADE ANY

COMMITMENTS BEYOND AGREEING TO THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT.
I REPLIED THAT THE DETAILS IN THE FACILITIES AND
THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE SUPPLEMENTALS REFLECTED VERY
ACCURATELY WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED TO BY THE TWO FOREIGN
MINISTERS.

3. AFTER MORE THAN TWO HOURS THE SPANISH ASKED
TIME TO STUDY OUR DRAFTS BEFORE MEETING AGAIN. GIVEN
THEIR UNPREPAREDNESS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MUCH PROGRESS
WILL BE MADE HERE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. CORTINA QUITE
CLEARLY HAS KEPT THE MOST IMPORTANT DETAILS OF HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY FROM THOSE NOW
DESIGNATED TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS GROUP
IS OBVIOUSLY DISCOMFITED BY WHAT CORTINA HAD AGREED
TO AND FURTHER EMBARRASSED BY BEING KEPT UNINFORMED.
WHETHER THEY REMONSTRATE WITH HIM THEREBY
FORCING ANY RECONSIDERATION ON HIM REMAINS TO BE
SEEN. IT WOULD RAISE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE WORKING
GROUP COULD BE USED TO BACK AWAY FROM COMMITMENTS MADE
BY CORTINA IN WASHINGTON. I TRUST NOT AND THAT IT
IS MERELY MY NATIVE CAUTION SHOWING. IF SUCH
HAPPENS, I WILL GO STRAIGHT AWAY TO CORTINA TO
SEEK RESOLUTION.
STABLER

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